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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Forty-third session
Geneva, 7 October 1996
Item 1(b) of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-third session of the Trade and Development Board

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Trade and Development Board, as approved by the thirteenth executive session on 8 July 1996, is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to furnish essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials

   (d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Board

2. Segment for high-level participation; substantive policy item: Foreign direct investment and development in a globalizing world economy

3. Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Rethinking development strategies; some lessons from East Asian development experience

4. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

   (a) Review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s;

   (b) UNCTAD's contribution to the work of relevant international organizations in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Final Act Decision on Measures in Favour of the Least Developed Countries by assisting the LDCs that are WTO members to take maximum advantage of the special and differential measures provided for in the Uruguay Round Agreements

5. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the role of UNCTAD in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

6. Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

7. Matters requiring action by the Board in follow-up to the ninth session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

   (a) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on preparations for a meeting with actors in development;

   (b) Improving the participation of developing countries' experts in UNCTAD meetings, including the question of financing their participation

8. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law;

   (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its twenty-ninth session

9. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Review of the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX);

   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (c) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (d) Review of the calendar of meetings;

   (e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

10. Other business

11. Adoption of the report of the Board on its forty-third session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Procedural matters:

The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

(a) Election of officers
(rules 18 and 19)

In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board shall consist of 12 members (the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur), i.e. 4 members from List A (Africa/Asia), 4 from List B, 2 from List C and 2 from List D referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX), as amended.

In accordance with the cycle for the rotation of the office of President of the Board, the President for the forty-third session shall be a representative of one of the States in List A (Africa) and the office of the Rapporteur, a representative of one of the States in List C.

No documentation

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

The provisional agenda for the session, as approved by the thirteenth executive session of the Board, is reproduced in section I above.

Documentation

TD/B/43/1 and Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda

Organization of work

The proposals for the organization of work of the session will be circulated to the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/43/1/Add.2	Organization of work of the session

(c) Adoption of the report on credentials
(Rule 17.2)

"The Bureau of the Board shall examine the credentials and submit their report to the Board".

In-session documentation

(d) Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Board

The preliminary draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Board will be circulated during the session. The Board may wish to refer the draft provisional agenda to the Consultations of the President and Bureau for finalization by the beginning of the first quarter of 1997.

In-session documentation

Item 2 Segment for high-level participation; substantive policy item: Foreign direct investment and development in a globalizing world economy

The thirteenth executive session of the Trade and Development recommended that the one-day informal segment take place on 10 October 1996 for high-level participation in the context of paragraph 107(a) of the final document of UNCTAD IX. At the beginning of the day, a panel consisting of Ministers and corporate executives will take place to introduce the following three topics:

(i) Trends in FDI, in particular to LDCs, their determinants and impediments, and policy implications for the promotion of FDI;
(ii) Interrelationships between investment, trade and technology, and implications for development;
(iii) Examination and review of existing agreements, identification and analysis of issues relevant to a possible multilateral framework on investment and implications for development.

In the afternoon of the same day, a panel discussion will take place consisting of Heads of relevant intergovernmental bodies and their secretariats.

Documentation

TD/B/43/5 Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 3 Interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective: Rethinking development strategies; some lessons from East Asian development experience

Pursuant to paragraph 107(c) of the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session, the Board will continue to deal with interdependence and global economic issues from a trade and development perspective at its regular session.

The topic for discussion at the forty-third session is "Rethinking development strategies; some lessons from East Asian development experience." The discussion will highlight the role of exports and investment in the successful growth and industrialization of East Asia including regional integration. It will also address the scope for pursuing export-oriented policies by the developing countries, drawing on this experience and taking into account changes in the global environment. The topic is covered in Part II of the Trade and Development Report, 1996.

Documentation

Trade and Development Report 1996 (Overview)

Item 4 Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

(a) Review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s;

(b) UNCTAD's contribution to the work of relevant international organizations in the implementation of the Uruguay Round Final Act Decision on Measures in Favour of the Least Developed Countries by assisting the LDCs that are WTO members to take maximum advantage of the special and differential measures provided for in the Uruguay Round Agreements

The final outcome of UNCTAD IX, the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development (TD/377), provides in paragraph 107(c) that the Board will review at its annual sessions progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. This session of the Board will provide the first opportunity, following the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action (New York, 1995), to consider implementation of policies and measures contained in the outcome of the High-level Meeting, particularly those relating to international support measures.

As regards agenda item 4(b), on the basis of recommendations made at the Mid-term Review the Board may wish to examine progress towards integrating the LDCs more fully in the international trading system and in assisting them to take fuller advantage of the special and differential measures provided for in the Uruguay Round agreements. The Board's consideration of this item could lead to identifying special measures that could be taken to this end.

Documentation

TD/B/42(2)/11 UNCTAD/LDC(1996) and Add.1	The Least Developed Countries Report 1996
TD/B/LDC/GR/8	Report of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Item 5 UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the role of UNCTAD in the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa

The final outcome of UNCTAD IX, the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development (TD/377), provides in paragraph 107(c) that the Board will review at its annual sessions progress in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF). In paragraph 87 (iii) of the final outcome the Conference called for strengthening UNCTAD's contribution, in co-operation with other relevant organizations in the United Nations Task Force for Africa towards the effective implementation of UN-NADAF.

For its consideration of this item, the Board will have before it a progress report covering: (a) recent socio-economic developments in Africa, showing the impact of actions both by the African governments and by the international community on the socio-economic situation in Africa; (b) the secretariat activities addressing the African situation (in the areas of policy research and analysis, and technical cooperation, as part of the overall international response, to complement African actions to halt and reverse the process of decline of their economies.

The document will take into account three factors: (a) that this session of the Board will provide the first opportunity, following UNCTAD IX, to consider the relevant and/or necessary reorientations of UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of this programme; (b) the mid-term review of UN-NADAF by the General Assembly (in September 1996); and (c) implications for UNCTAD's work of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa.

Documentation

TD/B/43/6 Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 6 Review of technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

In accordance with paragraph 107(b) of the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development, the Board will review the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD. Consideration by the Board will comprise the following matters:

- A review of activities undertaken in 1995. (The Board's review will, as an exception, substitute for that normally conducted by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and Programme Budget, which for reasons of calendar scheduling cannot meet on this subject in 1996);

- Information on overall developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation, including cooperation with other organizations and trends in the mobilization of resources; and

- Preliminary proposals to enable the Trade and Development Board to take action pursuant to section II.E. of the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development, with particular reference to paragraph 96 thereof, and to the Board's agreed conclusions 421(XLI) of September 1994.

Consideration by the Board will thus constitute a comprehensive review of the current situation and future prospects for UNCTAD's technical cooperation.

Documentation

TD/B/43/7 Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 7 Matters requiring action by the Board in follow-up to the ninth session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on preparations for a meeting with actors in development

The Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development in section III.C *The involvement of non-governmental actors in UNCTAD* (paragraphs 117, 118 and 119) requested the Secretary-General to consult with non-governmental actors, and to report to the Trade and Development Board with recommendations to enhance further their participation. The Conference also noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's initiative to hold a meeting with actors in development to advise him, and invited the Secretary-General to inform the Board at its next regular session of preparations for this meeting and to report subsequently on its outcome.

The Secretary-General's intention is to prepare a conference room paper that will be circulated to the Board, outlining the progress made in contacts with governments, private-sector representatives and non-governmental organizations for the preparation of the meeting mentioned above. The Secretary-General expects that at that time he will be able to provide a tentative agenda and date for the meeting and to make some estimates of the number and qualifications of participants.

In-session documentation

(b) Improving the participation of developing countries' experts in UNCTAD meetings, including the question of financing their participation

Paragraph 114 of the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development states that special consideration should be given at the next regular session of the Trade and Development Board with a view to taking a decision on the question of improving the participation of developing countries' experts in UNCTAD meetings, including the question of financing their participation.

The thirteenth executive session of the Board requested the secretariat to prepare an information compendium on UN system-wide organizations, with particular reference to Geneva-based ones, as to how participation of experts is financed in their meetings, particularly those from developing countries. It further requested that that information be made available to delegations in advance of the forty-third session of the Board to allow informal consultations to take place in the month of September in order to prepare the discussion of the Board on this item.

Documentation

TD/B/43/CRP.3 Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 8 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-ninth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (28 May - 14 June 1996)

The twenty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law was held in New York from 28 May to 14 June 1996. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), the report of the session will be before the Board.

General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), also provides that any comments or

General Assembly resolution 2205(XXI), also provides that any comments or recommendations which the Board may wish to make on the report shall be transmitted to the General Assembly. Likewise, any suggestions for topics to be included in the work of UNCITRAL, and any other recommendations by the Board relevant to the work of UNCITRAL, should be transmitted to the General Assembly.

Documentation

TD/B/43/3	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
A/51/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-ninth session

(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its twenty-ninth session (15 - 19 April 1996)

At its twenty-ninth session, the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO reviewed cooperation activities in 1995; approved the ITC Mission Statement; and considered ITC's contribution to the United Nations Medium-term Plan - 1998-2001). The Group also took note of the report of the "Consultative Committee on the Global Trust Fund".

Documentation

TD/B/43/4	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
ITC/AG(XXIX)/157	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its twenty-ninth session

Item 9 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Review of the lists of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX)

The list of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX) were reviewed at the ninth session of the Conference in the light of changes in the membership of the Conference. The Conference authorized the Trade and Development Board to further consult on the placement of those other States which had not yet indicated their preferences for inclusion or adjustment in any of the lists of States annexed to the above resolution and, as an exception, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

Documentation

TD/B/43/CRP.1	Review of the list of States annexed to General Assembly resolution 1995(XIX)

(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

A list of the 105 intergovernmental organizations at present in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/IGO/LIST/2.

No new applications are expected to be before the Board at its forty-third session.

Documentation

TD/B/IGO/LIST/2	List of IGOs in status with UNCTAD

(c) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present there are 167 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD - 81 in the General Category and 86 in the Special Category. The updated list of NGOs in status with UNCTAD is circulated in TD/B/NGO/LIST/1 and Add. 1 and 2.

During the forty-third session, the Board will be invited to consider applications from four NGOs listed below. In accordance with the provisions of rule 77, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will consult the Bureau and the Bureau's recommendations will be submitted to the Board.

An annotation concerning any further applications received will be contained in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/NGO/LIST/1 Add.1 and 2	List of NGOs in status with UNCTAD
TD/B/43/R.1	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/43/R.1/Add.1	Application by the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO)
TD/B/43/R.1/Add.2	World Wide Fund for Nature International (WWF)
TD/B/43/R.1/Add.3	International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)
TD/B/43/R.1/Add.4	Application by the World Vision International (WVI)

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

The Board will have before it a revised calendar of meetings for the remainder of 1996 and a draft indicative calendar for 1997, as approved by the Consultations of the President and the Bureau, together with a note on any further adjustments recommended, if necessary.

Documentation

TD/B/43/CRP.2	Review of the calendar of meetings

(e) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 10 Other business

At its thirteenth executive session, the Board agreed that, under this item, the Board at its forty-third session would discuss the review of UNCTAD's publication policy and the issue of coordination and cooperation between UNCTAD and relevant international organizations (in the context of paragraphs 100 and 107(a) of the Midrand Declaration and a Partnership for Growth and Development (TD/377)). The Board also requested the secretariat to prepare documentation on these two issues, to be taken up in the informal consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in preparation for the discussion at the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/43/CRP.4 Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 11 Adoption of the report of the Board on its forty-third session

In accordance with Board decision 259(XXV), two versions of the report are prepared: (a) the report of the Board to the General Assembly, containing the resolutions and decisions emanating from the session and any other material which the Board decides to transmit to the Assembly; and (b) the full account of the proceedings, which constitutes the official record of the Board's session.